

# MIN

2. Gay has improperly made it a substantive.  
Here shall the pencil bid its colours flow,  
And make a miniature creation grow. *Gay.*  
MINIKIN. *adj.* 1. Small; diminutive. Used in slight contempt.  
Sleepest, or wakest thou, jolly shepherd,  
Thy sheep be in the corn;  
And for one blast of thy minikin mouth,  
Thy sheep shall take no harm. *Shaksp. King Lear.*  
MINIKIN. *n. f.* A small fort of pins.  
MINIM. *n. f.* [from *minimus*, Lat.]  
1. A small being; a dwarf.  
Not all  
Minims of nature; some of serpent-kind,  
Wond'rous in length, and corpulence, involv'd  
Their snaky folds, and added wings. *Milton's Par. Lost.*  
2. This word is applied, in the northern counties, to a small  
fort of fish, which they pronounce *minnim*. See MINNOW.  
MINIMUS. *n. f.* [Latin.] A being of the least size.  
Get you gone, you dwarf,  
You minimus of hind'ring knot-grass made;  
You bead, you acorn. *Shaksp.*  
MINION. *n. f.* [*mignon*, French.] A favourite; a darling; a  
low dependant; one who pleases rather than benefits. A  
word of contempt, or of slight and familiar kindness.  
Minion, said she; indeed I was a pretty one in those days;  
I see a number of lads that love you. *Sidney, b. ii.*  
They were made great courtiers, and in the way of *min-*  
*nions*, when advancement, the most mortal offence to envy,  
stirred up their former friend to overthrow them. *Sidney.*  
One, who had been a special *minion* of Andromanas, hated  
us for having dispossest him of her heart. *Sidney, b. ii.*  
Go rate thy *minions*;  
Becomes it thee to be thus bold in terms  
Before thy sovereign. *Shaksp. Henry VI.*  
Duncan's horses,  
Beauteous and swift, the *minions* of the race,  
Turn'd wild in nature. *Shaksp. Macbeth.*  
His company must do his *minions* grace,  
Whilst I at home starve for a merry look. *Shaksp.*  
Edward sent one army into Ireland; not for conquest, but  
to guard the person of his *minion* Piers Gaveston. *Davies.*  
If a man should launch into the history of human nature,  
we should find the very *minions* of princes linked in conspira-  
cies against their master. *L'Estrange's Fables.*  
The drowsy tyrant by his *minions* led,  
To regal rage devotes some patriot's head. *Swift.*  
MINIOUS. *adj.* [from *minium*, Latin.] Of the colour of red  
lead or vermilion.  
Some conceive, that the Red Sea receiveth a red and *min-*  
*ious* tincture from springs that fall into it. *Brown.*  
To MINISH. *v. a.* [from *diminish*; *minus*, Latin.] To lessen;  
to lop; to impair.  
Ye shall not *minish* ought from your bricks of your daily  
task. *Exod. v. 19.*  
They are *minished* and brought low through oppression.  
*Psal. cvii. 39.*  
Another law was to bring in the silver of the realm to the  
mint, in making all clipp'd, *minished*, or impaired coins of sil-  
ver, not to be current in payments. *Bacon's Henry VII.*  
MINISTER. *n. f.* [*minister*, Latin; *ministre*, Fr.]  
1. An agent; one who is employed to any end; one who acts  
not by any inherent authority, but under another.  
You, whom virtue hath made the princeps of felicity, be  
not the *minister* of ruin. *Sidney, b. ii.*  
Rumple thy belly full; spit fire, spout rain,  
Nor rain, wind, thunder, fire, are my daughters;  
I tax not you, you elements, with unkindness:  
But yet I call you servile *ministers*,  
That have with two pernicious daughters join'd  
Your high-engender'd battles, 'gainst a head  
So old and white as this. *Shaksp. King Lear.*  
Th' infernal *minister* advanc'd,  
Seiz'd the due victim. *Dryden's Theodore and Honoria.*  
Other spirits govern'd by the will,  
Shoot through their tracks, and distant muscles fill;  
This sovereign, by his arbitrary nod,  
Restrains or lends his *ministers* abroad. *Blackmore.*  
2. One who is employed in the administration of govern-  
ment.  
Kings must be answerable to God, but the *ministers* to  
kings, whose eyes, ears, and hands they are, must be an-  
swerable to God and man. *Bacon.*  
3. One who serves at the altar; one who performs sacerdotal  
functions.  
Epaphras, a faithful *minister* of Christ. *1 Col. i. 7.*  
The *ministers* are always preaching, and the governors  
putting forth edicts against dancing and gaming. *Aldison.*  
The *ministers* of the gospel are especially required to shine  
as lights in the world, because the distinction of their station

renders their conduct more observable; and the presumption  
of their knowledge, and the dignity of their office, gives a  
peculiar force and authority to their example. *Rogers.*  
4. A delegate; an official.  
If wrongfully  
Let God revenge; for I may never lift  
An angry arm against his *minister*. *Shaksp. Rich. II.*  
5. An agent from a foreign power, without the dignity of an  
ambassador.  
To MINISTRE. *v. a.* [*ministre*, Latin.] To give; to supply;  
to afford.  
All the customs of the Irish would *ministre* occasion of a  
most ample discourse of the original and antiquity of that  
people. *Spenser on Ireland.*  
Now he that *ministreth* seed to the sower, both *minister*  
bread for your food and multiply your seed sown. *2 Cor. ix.*  
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The artist's hand that *ministers* the cure. *Orway's Orphan.*  
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At table Eve  
*Minister'd* naked, and their flowing cups  
With pleasant liquors crown'd. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. v.*  
2. To give medicines.  
Can't thou not *minister* to a mind diseas'd,  
Pluck from the memory a rooted sorrow,  
Raze out the written troubles of the brain? *Shak. Macb.*  
3. To give supplies of things needful; to give assistance; to  
contribute; to conduce.  
Others *ministered* unto him of their substance. *Luke viii. 3.*  
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From essences unseen, celestial names,  
Enlight'ning spirits, and *ministerial* flames,  
Lift we our reason to that sovereign cause,  
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2. Acting under superior authority.  
For the *ministerial* officers in court there must be an eye  
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Abstinence, the apostle determines, is of no other real  
value in religion, than as a *ministerial* cause of moral effects;  
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3. Sacerdotal; belonging to the ecclesiastics or their office.  
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At table Eve  
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2. To give medicines.  
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4. To attend on the service of God.  
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*Rom. xii. 7.*  
MINIST'RIAL. *adj.* [from *minister*.]  
1. Attendant; acting at command.  
Understanding is required in a man; courage and vivacity  
in the lion; service, and *ministerial* officiousness, in the ox.  
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From essences unseen, celestial names,  
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Lift we our reason to that sovereign cause,  
Who blest'd the whole with life. *Prior.*  
2. Acting under superior authority.  
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Abstinence, the apostle determines, is of no other real  
value in religion, than as a *ministerial* cause of moral effects;  
as it recalls us from the world, and gives a serious turn to  
our thoughts. *Rogers's Sermons.*  
3. Sacerdotal; belonging to the ecclesiastics or their office.  
These speeches of Jerom and Chrysostom plainly allude  
unto such *ministerial* garments as were then in use. *Hooker.*  
4. Pertaining to ministers of state, or persons in subordinate au-  
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MINISTRY. *n. f.* [*ministerium*, Lat.] Office; service. This  
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four syllables.  
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vants mouths that are dextrous in that *ministry*. *Digby.*  
This temple to frequent  
With *ministries* due, and solemn rites. *Milton, b. xii.*  
MINISTRAL. *adj.* [from *minister*.] Pertaining to a minister.  
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Princedom, and dominations *ministrant*,  
Accompany'd to heav'n-gate. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. x.*  
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Four faithful handmaids the soft robes prepare.  
MINISTR'ATION. *n. f.* [from *ministre*, Latin.] To give; to supply;  
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All the customs of the Irish would *ministre* occasion of a  
most ample discourse of the original and antiquity of that  
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Now he that *ministreth* seed to the sower, both *minister*  
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